United Nations A/C.6/69/SR.2

General Assembly
Sixty-ninth session

Official Records

Distr.: General
24 October 2014

Original: English

Sixth Committee

Summary record of the 2nd meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Tuesday, 7 October 2014, at 3 p.m.

Chair: Mr. Manongi ..... (United Republic of Tanzania)

Contents

Agenda item 107: Measures to eliminate international terrorism (*continued*)

This record is subject to correction.

Corrections should be sent as soon as possible, under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned, to the Chief of the Documents Control Unit (srcorrections@un.org), and incorporated in a copy of the record.

Corrected records will be reissued electronically on the Official Document System of the United Nations (http://documents.un.org).

14-62187 (E)

Please recycle

The meeting was called to order at 3 p.m.

Agenda item 107: Measures to eliminate international terrorism (*continued*) (A/69/209)

1. **Mr. Joyini** (South Africa), speaking on behalf of the African Group, said that the African States condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, as well as all acts, methods and practices of terrorism, including State terrorism, wherever, by whomever and against whomever committed; no cause or grievance could justify it. All States, whether directly or indirectly affected, had a common interest in being more proactive and adopting a preventive approach against terrorist acts.

2. The African Group appreciated the work done so far by the Ad Hoc Committee established by General Assembly resolution 51/210 of 17 December 1996 in preparing a draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism. The Group continued to attach importance to the conclusion of that instrument and again called on all States to cooperate in resolving outstanding issues. Such a convention should in no way deny people their right to self-determination. African delegations remained willing to work with others to achieve consensus on the draft convention and to continue to refine the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. The proposal to convene a high-level conference under the auspices of the United Nations to formulate an international response to terrorism should also be given serious consideration.

3. African States, a number of which were themselves affected, were committed to addressing terrorism both internationally and regionally, as reflected in the Organization of African Unity (OAU) Convention on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism, which had come into force in 2002, the preparation in the same year of a plan of action at the intergovernmental high-level meeting on the subject and the establishment of the African Centre for Studies and Research on Terrorism (ACSRT) in Algiers.

4. The financing of terrorism was a matter of grave concern, particularly as one of its main sources was the payment of ransoms, reflected in increasingly frequent cases of kidnapping and hostage-taking. The African Group urged Member States to cooperate in addressing the issue of payment of ransoms to terrorist groups. More attention should be given to strengthening cooperation among States in fighting terrorism, including by expanding the assistance available to apprehend terrorists and investigate and prevent terrorist acts. The Group welcomed efforts to facilitate cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations, together with initiatives to strengthen the capacity of African countries to implement coordinated counter-terrorism strategies, such as the Trans-Sahara Counterterrorism Partnership developed by ACRST, the United States Government's Africa Center for Strategic Studies, and the Madrid Declaration and Plan of Action on strengthening the legal regime against terrorism in West and Central Africa.

5. A sound universal international law approach to combating terrorism required more effective implementation of counter-terrorism conventions and related United Nations resolutions. In addition, capacity-building in developing countries was vital. In view of the inadequacy of the resources and capacity of many African States to meet their international counter-terrorism obligations, despite their best efforts, the African Group appealed for assistance from the international community.

6. **Mr. Mukongo Ngay** (Democratic Republic of the Congo) said that the President of his country had referred to Africa as the epicentre of the phenomenon of terrorism and had called for a collective effort by all Member States to eradicate it, not only as a moral obligation but also as the only effective strategy. In that effort, respect for human rights, without ethnic and religious discrimination, political exclusion and socioeconomic marginalization, must be paramount. It was also essential to promote the rule of law — law as a means to peace — which ran counter to terrorist practices characterized by unacceptable acts of violence and a denial of human rights. To that end, the international instruments listed in the report of the Secretary-General before the Committee on measures to eliminate international terrorism (A/69/209) should be fully incorporated into the domestic law of States. Each State's domestic courts should be competent to try terrorist cases and there should be cooperation with other States and the appropriate international and regional organizations in helping to ensure that persons accused of terrorism stood trial with full respect for their right to defend themselves.

7. At the international level, his delegation welcomed the counter-terrorism measures taken by the International Maritime Organization the United

Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the World Bank and the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL). At the regional and subregional levels, the Democratic Republic of the Congo was actively involved in efforts to combat terrorism within the framework of the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa, the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region, and it collaborated with the African Centre for Studies and Research on Terrorism. His delegation continued to support SADC initiatives, including the establishment of a regional early warning centre to monitor terrorist threats in the region, the preparation of a model counter-terrorism law for Africa and the drafting of a memorandum of understanding with the African Centre for Studies and Research on Terrorism. The Democratic Republic of the Congo would also be participating actively in the first expert workshop on the development of a regional strategy to combat terrorism for Southern Africa, to be held in Zimbabwe from 5 to 7 November 2014. That strategy, which would provide an effective means of combating the spread of terrorist activities within the region and possibly to other parts of Africa, would focus on wide-ranging measures of prevention. The second and third workshops would be held in 2015, in Zambia and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, respectively. His delegation supported African Union decision 256 (XIII) condemning the payment of ransom to terrorist groups and welcomed the development and adoption by the African Union Commission of model national legislation to combat terrorism, which represented a major advance.

8. The drafting of a comprehensive convention on international terrorism deserved the Committee's sustained attention, as it would supplement existing sectoral conventions and thereby strengthen the legal framework for combating terrorism. His delegation would collaborate fully in the pursuit of that goal and called on others to continue their efforts to resolve the outstanding issues.

9. **Mr. Dos Santos** (Paraguay) said that his country remained fully committed to combating international terrorism in all its manifestations and would continue its efforts in support of the implementation of the four pillars of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy with an emphasis on the national and regional levels, in close cooperation with the relevant bodies.

10. The most effective means of fighting terrorism was international cooperation. Paraguay had ratified 13 international instruments in that regard and was a party to the two treaties in force in the region. Over the past four years, the Paraguayan Congress had enacted legislation on the prosecution of terrorism, terrorist association and financing of terrorism, the freezing of funds and financial assets and the adoption of a strategic plan for combating money-laundering, financing of terrorism and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. In February 2012, the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) had recognized the major progress that his Government had made in in combating money-laundering and the financing of terrorism, with the result that Paraguay was no longer subject to the FATF monitoring process. All those measures and others had been taken in accordance with his Government's international commitment to fighting the scourge of terrorism.

11. In February 2014, Paraguay had been elected to serve as the Vice-Chair of the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism (CICTE) and was therefore all the more determined to support the efforts of the United Nations and its Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force in combating terrorism in the medium and long term. In the past few years, his country had been actively involved in the work of CICTE, which had served to strengthen national counter-terrorism structures, and had contributed to the development of regional plans. His Government had thus demonstrated its determination to fulfil its international commitments.

12. Emphasizing that the rule of law and full respect for human rights were preconditions for the eradication of the scourge, he called on all Member States to continue supporting the relevant United Nations mechanisms with a view to strengthening international cooperation to combat terrorism in all its forms and manifestations.

13. **Ms. Rodríguez Pineda** (Guatemala) reaffirmed her country's total rejection of terrorism in all its forms and its commitment to preventing and combating it. The annual deliberations of the Committee offered an opportunity to review the status of existing international instruments for the prevention and punishment of international terrorism in order to evaluate their universal acceptance. They also helped to promote awareness of those instruments with a view

to full and effective implementation, for which Member States carried the prime responsibility.

14. The report of the Secretary-General (A/69/209) showed that, while much had been achieved in combating terrorism, the scourge continued to spread, affecting an increasing number of targets, including the Organization itself. The United Nations must take the lead in coordinating counter-terrorism efforts; the General Assembly was the proper intergovernmental forum to address terrorism by virtue of both its universal character and the very nature of the issue, which required a concerted response from all countries. The Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force possessed the necessary capacity to direct the work and ensure its coherence system-wide.

15. International cooperation must underpin the global effort to eradicate terrorism and should be strengthened to that end, in particular by drawing on the valuable experience of regional and subregional bodies such as the Organization of American States. Terrorism would not be eradicated if its underlying causes were not successfully addressed. While a large number of tools had been developed over the past decade, specifically tailored to each region, it still remained necessary to adopt as soon as possible a comprehensive counter-terrorism convention, which would supplement the existing instruments. The Sixth Committee had an essential role to play in that respect and her delegation therefore looked forward to the conclusions of its deliberations at the current session regarding the future of such a convention.

16. Her delegation had concerns about some recent decisions of the Security Council relating to terrorism. The issue of payment of ransom to terrorist groups still remained unregulated by international law, notwithstanding Security Council resolution 2133 (2014), and continued to be marked by differences in legal terminology and approach. Similarly, the Council's resolution 2178 (2014) on foreign terrorist fighters established a new legal framework for all States Members of the United Nations, whereas the General Assembly should take the lead in meeting those challenges and in filling existing gaps, with due regard for humanitarian concerns and human rights.

17. Lastly, any counter-terrorism measures must scrupulously comply with the rule of law and due process. In that regard, her delegation acknowledged the great efforts of the Office of the Ombudsperson to bring the regime of sanctions into line with the rule of law.

18. **Ms. Mejía Vélez** (Colombia) said that her country condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and reaffirmed its conviction that no circumstance could justify it. Recent events in Syria and Iraq showed the total disregard for basic human values and the rule of law of those who resorted to terrorism. Preventing, punishing and eradicating terrorism remained a priority that required continuing resolute attention and, despite the progress reported by the Secretary-General, was more pressing than ever. In the face of the increasing sophistication of terrorist action, the full cooperation of the international community was crucial: the efforts of the United Nations must be supported and supplemented worldwide. During the fourth review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism strategy, her delegation had stressed the need to implement all the pillars of the Strategy in an integrated and balanced manner.

19. A particular concern was the payment of ransom to kidnappers as a means of financing terrorism. Fuller information and analysis were needed in order to address the issue properly; generalizations and the imposition of measures that failed to take account of the specific characteristics of the phenomenon in different areas of the world should be avoided. Human life and liberty were internationally recognized rights that must be protected. In such cases, the measures to be taken should not criminalize the victims or those seeking to defend them. Moreover, applicable legal norms, including domestic legislation, should be respected and every effort should be made to prevent terrorists from benefiting from ransom payments.

20. One worrying trend was the increase in the number of foreign terrorist fighters, which was a growing threat to stability and security in some parts of the world. Determined, concerted action must be taken, in accordance with the relevant international obligations, to prevent radicalization leading to terrorism and violent extremism. However, such measures must be taken with due regard for the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of all States, international humanitarian law, international refugee law and international human rights law, including the right of due process, the presumption of innocence and the right to privacy. In addition, the counter-productive stereotyping of certain

nationalities, cultures and regions must be avoided, as must the imposing of unwarranted restrictions on travellers.

21. The proceeds of organized crime must not be allowed to support terrorism: all links between terrorist groups and organized criminal groups should be removed, and concrete action should be taken to translate into reality international commitments to combat money-laundering. Her delegation was likewise very concerned about the harmful effect on global counter-terrorism efforts of the illicit arms trade and accordingly welcomed the adoption of the Arms Trade Treaty.

22. Lastly, her delegation stressed the need for open and inclusive negotiations in order to arrive as early as possible at a consensus, as difficult as that might be, on a draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism, thereby demonstrating the commitment of all Member States to the elimination of terrorism for the benefit of all.

23. **Mr. Saeed** (Sudan) said that his country condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, including State terrorism, and was committed to the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. The Sudan had ratified all the international counter-terrorism instruments, in addition to regional, African and Arab agreements. His Government had incorporated the Global Strategy into national legislation. A national strategy had been formulated in consultation with civil society, religious leaders and academics. In June 2014, the Sudanese parliament had approved a new law consistent with international standards on combating money-laundering and the financing of terrorism. The law established a financial intelligence unit and a national committee comprising the competent agencies. Parliament had also recently adopted a new law on the suppression of human trafficking. His Government was an active participant in several relevant initiatives in the African Union, the League of Arab States and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development. A range of awareness-raising campaigns had been organized, with a particular focus on young persons, students, women, prominent figures, religious authorities and labour unions. The Government made use of publications and the media to promote moderation, provide a corrective to aberrant ideologies and combat electronic crime.

24. His delegation commended the work of the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre and the support extended to it by the Government of Saudi Arabia. In order to combat terrorism, the international community should seek to fight poverty; support development efforts, particularly in Africa; encourage dialogue between North and South; and establish a fair and equitable international order based on dialogue and respect for all religions, civilizations and cultures. His Government therefore strongly rejected the unilateral measures adopted by certain States which, motivated by their own political agendas, accused other States of supporting or sponsoring terrorism. Such measures would only create tension and politicize global counter-terrorism efforts. The Global Strategy reflected an international consensus on the need to combat terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, without linking it with any religion, civilization or race. That endeavour should be based on international and regional cooperation and should be consistent with international law and human rights standards.

25. **Mr. Seck** (Senegal) said that, in response to the recent expansion of terrorism on a hitherto unprecedented scale and in new and more sophisticated forms, concerted action was necessary, coordinated by the United Nations. Member States must honour their international commitments by taking practical steps to bring recognized terrorists to justice and prevent their territories from being used to plan, prepare or finance acts of terrorism.

26. The approach developed by Senegal to that end was based on three main lines of action. First, prevention was designed, through an early warning system, to ensure that terrorists did not have the means to accomplish their goals; it went hand in hand with the punishment, in accordance with the law, of anyone who, by word or action, sought to discredit another religion or faith. In that connection his delegation reaffirmed its rejection of any attempt to associate terrorism with a particular religion, nationality, culture or ethnic group.

27. Secondly, his Government attached importance to cooperation, so as to ensure an effective and rapid collective response to the terrorist threat. Senegal was accordingly a party to 13 international conventions relating terrorism; the Organization of African Unity Convention on the Prevent and Combating of Terrorism and its 2004 Protocol. It implemented the decisions of the West African Economic and Monetary Union and

the Economic Community of West African States with regard to financing of terrorism and actively cooperated in matters of international criminal justice against terrorism, as well as border controls and mutual legal assistance in respect of money laundering and the financing of terrorism.

28. The third aspect of Senegal's counter-terrorism strategy consisted in the development of a rapid response capacity in order to prosecute and punish persons committing acts of terrorism, protect the population and assist victims. In that regard, his delegation welcomed the launch of the United Nations Victims of Terrorism Support Portal.

29. His delegation was deeply concerned about the increasing recruitment of foreign terrorist fighters in Syria, as it was a serious threat to the stability of countries of origin, transit and destination. It was imperative that the international community should put in place an appropriate and effective strategy to address the new threat. The United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre was working to improve understanding of the phenomenon and develop best practices for eliminating it. The adoption of Security Council resolution 2178 (2014) was a significant step towards finding a lasting solution and reflected a shared desire for a collective response to the terrorist threat and violent extremism. He called on the international community to support the efforts of the countries of the Sahel and West Africa to that end, particularly through the United Nations integrated strategy for the Sahel.

30. **Mr. Pašić** (Bosnia and Herzegovina) said that his country attached great importance to the prevention and eradication of all forms of terrorism. It had taken a number of measures to create a safe and secure environment at the national level and contributed to regional and global efforts to the same end. Bosnia and Herzegovina had strengthened its counter-terrorism capacity by bringing its legislation into line with United Nations and European Union standards and by adopting a national strategy for preventing and combating terrorism. In June 2003, its Parliamentary Assembly had adopted a new Criminal Code which contained provisions on the criminal offences of terrorism and the financing of terrorism. The law amending that Code, which had come into force in June 2014, made it a crime for citizens to fight on foreign battlefields. Article 162 (b) of that law provided for the investigation and criminal prosecution of individuals serving in foreign para-police and paramilitary groups, as well as those offering any kind of encouragement or assistance to such groups. In September of the current year, 16 persons had been prosecuted under that law.

31. His country welcomed Security Council resolution 2178 (2014), which it had co-sponsored. It was a party to all relevant United Nations conventions and protocols, supported the establishment of a working group of the Sixth Committee under the agenda item and would continue to advocate for the finalization and adoption of a comprehensive convention on international terrorism.

32. **Mr. Masood Khan** (Pakistan) said that his Government denounced all forms and manifestations of terrorism and condemned killings by terrorists anywhere in the world, committed for whatever purpose; no ideology, religion, creed or cause could justify such heinous crimes. The question was whether the United Nations, which was uniquely placed to counter that threat, needed to revamp its strategy to address a phenomenon that was growing more lethal and more complex and rested on multiple sensitive political, sectarian and ethnic fault lines.

33. In the war against terrorism on its own soil, Pakistan had incurred huge costs in human lives and resources. His Government was nevertheless continuing to pursue a multi-pronged strategy. After a failed attempt at dialogue, it had launched a military action to flush out terrorists hiding in North Waziristan, with considerable success in destroying terrorist hideouts, munitions factories and caches of arms and communications equipment. An intelligence operation to prevent retaliation across the country had led to the interdiction of scores of terrorists. Complete success, however, would require complementary measures from across the western border. Relief was being provided for the population temporarily dislocated by those operations.

34. In order to combat violent extremism, the Government was focusing on a review of educational curricula, the propagation of counter-narratives through the media and seminars, economic development of areas at risk, employment generation and skill development for youth. In the justice sector, the Government was building the capacity of prosecutors, police offices and judges to ensure that counter-terrorism measures were rooted in the rule of law and

in accordance with Pakistan's international obligations. Sweeping amendments had brought its legislation against terrorist financing into line with global standards. Pakistan was a party to eleven universal and two regional counter-terrorism instruments.

35. The international community agreed that terrorism should not be associated with any particular religion, faith, race, ethnicity, value system or culture. The United Nations counter-terrorism strategy should therefore address the question of the defamation of certain religions and the demonization of the communities practising them, creating an incitement to hatred. A dialogue of civilizations was imperative to prevent differences from becoming fodder for terrorist ideologies.

36. At the same time, there was an urgent need to address festering disputes and unresolved conflicts, unlawful use of force, aggression, foreign occupation and denial of the right of self-determination. Political and economic injustices led to polarization and fuelled animosities. Measures to combat terrorism must remain within the framework of international law and distinguish between just and unjust causes, as injustice bred hostility. The proposed comprehensive convention on international terrorism must be consistent with international humanitarian law and should clearly differentiate between acts of terrorism and the legitimate struggles for self-determination of people living under foreign occupation.

37. He emphasized, lastly, that Pakistan had demanded the cessation of drone strikes in its border areas: they were counter-productive and violated national sovereignty and the established principles of international human rights and humanitarian law. His Government was already taking decisive action against terrorists in those areas.

38. **Mr. Hitti** (Lebanon), noting the strong and unanimous condemnation of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, said that the challenge remained the identification of the most effective way of bolstering collective efforts to eradicate that scourge. Although recently all eyes had been turning to the Middle East, terrorism did not spare the rest of the world. Lebanon welcomed the efforts of the United Nations to combat the groups referred to as Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) and Al-Nusrah Front, in particular through Security Council resolution 2170 (2014), which imposed sanctions against those groups, and Security Council resolution 2178 (2014) on violent extremism and foreign terrorist fighters. His delegation noted with deep satisfaction that pillars I and IV of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, dealing respectively with the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism and the respect of human rights in the fight against terrorism, were reflected in the latter resolution. His country also fully supported the two Arab League resolutions calling for the adoption of immediate measures against terrorism on the political, defence, security and legal levels.

39. His delegation attached great importance to prevention, particularly through education and the promotion of culture of dialogue among religions and civilizations. Despite repeated reminders by the international community that terrorism could not be identified with any particular religious, ethnic or national group, all too many people continue to associate it with Islam, thereby fuelling Islamophobia. Moreover it was essential to address the root causes of terrorism, which included flashpoints of tension, poverty, social exclusion and marginalization, impunity and double standards in respect of international law. In countering terrorism, it was also imperative to uphold human rights and the rule of law; that principle was enshrined in General Assembly resolution 68/178. Information and communication technology had an undeniable role to play in that effort but must be used cautiously, with all due regard for fundamental rights, such as the right to privacy.

40. His delegation commended the work of United Nations bodies that were making a significant contribution to the efforts of States to eradicate terrorism. The time was now ripe for a comprehensive convention that would define terrorism in a unified manner and better draw a distinction between terrorism and other acts, such as acts in pursuance of the legitimate right to resist foreign occupation, which was solidly rooted in international law.

41. His delegation wished to draw the Committee's attention to the acts of terrorism carried out with full impunity by Israeli settlers in the occupied State of Palestine against Palestinians and their property. Israel's alleged commitment to human rights and the rule of law clearly applied to only one part of its population.

42. Terrorist attacks on Lebanese soil had taken a heavy toll, and his Government was committed to

standing up firmly to terrorist groups. Nonetheless, their barbarity should not provide the pretext for departing from the values and ideals embedded in the Charter of the United Nations.

43. **Mr. Tuy** (Cambodia) said that his delegation strongly condemned the killings perpetrated by the so-called Islamic State against religious and ethnic minorities and the brutal execution of innocent people. It sympathized with the legitimate outrage of the Muslim community over that violence. His Government was deeply committed to fighting terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and was cooperating to that end with all member countries of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and States Members of the United Nations; it fully supported Security Council resolutions 2170 (2014) and 2178 (2014) on counter-terrorism measures and appreciated efforts by United Nations and other international, regional and subregional organizations in support of the victims of terrorism. ASEAN ministers of foreign affairs had recently issued a statement on the rise of violence and brutality committed by terrorist/extremist organizations in Iraq and Syria, and his delegation invited all States to join in that initiative to marginalize extremism and combat terrorism. However, such action should not be to the detriment of fundamental freedoms, human rights and the rule of law and should be in accordance with the relevant United Nations resolutions.

44. Cambodia was a party to the ASEAN Convention on Counter-Terrorism and all the relevant major conventions and protocols of the United Nations and had enacted a large number of laws and regulations that had enabled it to achieve some remarkable successes in preventing and suppressing terrorism and transnational crimes. It was currently engaged in the development of a policy to promote the participation of villagers and citizens' organizations, including political parties, in efforts to ensure security and safety in villages and communes throughout the country. In addition to implementing the legal reforms and building the operational capacity of the national police and other law enforcement agencies, the Government had focused on inter-agency cooperation at the national level and had put in place a number of national committees in the areas of counter-terrorism; chemical, nuclear, biological and radioactive materials; arms control; and maritime security.

45. His Government looked forward to sharing its best practices with other countries. Capacity-building by all Member States was a core element of the global counter-terrorism effort. Cambodia, for its part, was committed to increased cooperation with other Member States and international agencies and would continue to support implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

46. **Mr. Al-Ojari** (Yemen) said that his Government rejected terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, whatever its motivation or purpose. Greater cooperation and coordination among Member States were needed to eliminate terrorism, which must not be associated with any religion, culture or nationality. His Government had therefore ratified most of the relevant international instruments. It was important to conclude the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism, which must contain a clear definition of terrorism that distinguished between acts of terrorism and the right of peoples to resist aggression, pursuant to the Charter of the United Nations.

47. His Government welcomed Security Council resolution 2178 (2014).In 2012, it had adopted a comprehensive counter-terrorism strategy aimed at eliminating the sources and financing of extremism throughout the country and educating the public on the dangers of extremism and terrorism. Legislation had also been adopted to criminalize money-laundering, financing of terrorism and incitement to terrorism.

48. His country's infrastructure had become the target of a frenzied terrorist offensive that had claimed numerous civilian lives. On 5 December 2013, Al-Qaida militants had attacked a hospital in the Ministry of Defence complex in Sana'a, killing doctors, nurses and patients. In August 2014, they had ambushed and publicly beheaded Yemeni soldiers who had been returning from leave and were unarmed. His Government had continued to combat the terrorist groups, the majority of whose members were foreign nationals. In several governorates, the Army had wrested control from terrorist movements and destroyed their bases. Despite the Government's lack of resources and international support, the Al-Qaida organization had been weakened.

49. Yemen was determined to eradicate terrorist elements and eliminate their sources of support and financing at home and abroad. He appealed to the country's international partners to provide logistical

and technical assistance to the security forces and step up counter-terrorism cooperation and information exchange, particularly with regard to cross-border terrorist groups.

50. **Mr. Niyazaliev** (Kyrgyzstan) said that his country condemned all acts of terrorism, irrespective of their motivation. Terrorism should not be associated with any religion, nationality, civilization or ethnic group and could only be fought successfully through international cooperation. Kyrgyzstan fully supported all measures taken to that end within the framework of the United Nations; such measures must, of course, be implemented in accordance with the principles of the Charter and international law. Kyrgyzstan was a party to most of the related United Nations conventions and protocols. His Government was taking appropriate action to implement Security Council resolution 2178 (2014) on the threat posed by foreign terrorist fighters; it firmly supported the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and the work of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force. His delegation remained committed to negotiations on a draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism and supported the proposal to convene a high-level conference under United Nations auspices to formulate a joint response to terrorism and elaborate a common definition.

51. Aware that terrorism could not be overcome through the use of force, his Government was actively seeking to eliminate the conditions contributing to the spread of terrorism, in particular through social and economic advancement, poverty reduction, job creation, anti-corruption measures and reform of the law enforcement and judicial systems. Kyrgyzstan's national sustainable development strategy reflected that approach. His country, like many others, still needed to enhance its counter-terrorism capacity, particularly in implementation of Security Council resolution 2178 (2014), and would welcome close cooperation in that regard.

52. **Mr. Haniff** (Malaysia) said that his Government strongly condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, wherever and by whomsoever committed; irrespective of the reasons behind it, no heinous act of terrorism could be justified. As terrorist activities escalated around the world, with the loss of thousands of innocent lives, counter-terrorism efforts required effective international action, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and universally recognized principles of international relations and international law. Such efforts should be coordinated by the United Nations and its entities, particularly the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force. In that regard, his Government firmly supported all four pillars of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

53. His delegation hoped for an early conclusion of the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism, which would complement existing international conventions in addressing terrorism in a holistic manner. In that connection, he reiterated his Government's position under international law and the Charter on the legitimacy of resistance to foreign aggression and the struggle of peoples under colonial or alien domination and foreign occupation, and on the need for terrorist acts perpetrated by States and non-State actors to be treated alike. There was an urgent need to formulate an internationally agreed definition of terrorism. It was also high time that Member States showed their commitment to convening a high-level conference under the auspices of the United Nations, as called for in General Assembly resolution 68/119, to serve as a platform to unite and coordinate global counter-terrorism efforts.

54. Measures to counter international terrorism should not infringe on the sovereignty and territorial integrity of States. Moreover, terrorism should not be associated with any race, culture or religion. In that regard, Malaysia called for greater cooperation to promote moderation and understanding among cultures, religions and civilizations. It was important to take a multifaceted approach to combating terrorism, including identification of its root causes, rather than relying on the use of force alone. Education was particularly important in order to overcome ignorance and illiteracy, provide opportunities to escape poverty and thereby reduce the likelihood of radicalization. Member States should also share experiences and best practices, including expertise in deradicalization and counter-radicalization programmes, to address the root causes of terrorism. Enhanced capacity-building was required in order to keep pace with the latest tactics adopted by terrorist groups, particularly their use of the Internet to communicate and disseminate propaganda.

55. His Government was committed to preventing terrorist groups from using Malaysia as a base for recruitment and fundraising; several terrorist suspects had been arrested in the last few months. The Anti-Money-Laundering and Anti-Terrorism Financing

Act 2001 had also recently been amended to enhance the investigative powers of law enforcement agencies in procedures for freezing terrorism-related assets. Malaysia had also signed and ratified the Convention on Counter-Terrorism of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), and had participated in the 12th Intersessional Meeting on Counter-Terrorism and Transnational Crime of the ASEAN Regional Forum, held in Bali in April 2014.

56. The active involvement of foreign terrorist fighters in Syria and Iraq was a worrying development. His delegation reiterated its support for Security Council resolution 2178 (2014), including the requirement for Member States to prevent the entry into or transit through their territories of individuals linked to terrorism, to target the financing of terrorist activities, and to implement legislation to prosecute and penalize those associated with terrorist groups, including by withholding travel documents and sharing airline information. At the current session of the General Assembly, the Prime Minister of Malaysia had repeated his call for a global movement of moderates to counter extremism. Since the fight against extremists must be won not just in Syria and Iraq but around the world, all Member States were urged to join that cause and redouble their efforts to combat terrorism.

57. **Ms. Mwaipopo** (United Republic of Tanzania) said that, despite national, regional and global counter-terrorism efforts, terrorist groups continued to form new alliances and employ new techniques, basing their operations in fragile States and plundering the resources of those territories to acquire finances, arms and recruits. Greater coordination was needed at the national, regional and international levels, particularly through the United Nations, to respond to the scale and complexity of that challenge. In particular, assistance should be provided to fragile States in their efforts to build stable political systems and functional Governments; that would facilitate the elimination of breeding grounds for terrorism.

58. Terrorists must not be allowed to assume the role of the State. Newly emerging groups such as ISIL should be eliminated by all means. Her Government applauded international efforts to eradicate ISIL and urged all Member States to support such endeavours.

59. The United Republic of Tanzania was a party to nine international counter-terrorism instruments and one regional instrument. It had taken administrative and legislative steps to combat terrorism, including the enactment of relevant laws and the establishment of inter-agency entities that coordinated the Government's efforts to prevent and combat terrorism, money-laundering and terrorist financing. It had also sought to create employment opportunities, promote women's empowerment and provide vocational and entrepreneurial training for young people in order to increase their self-reliance and reduce dissatisfaction. However, the country still faced several challenges. Small arms and light weapons remained the most common means of committing terrorist attacks. Conflicts and instability, especially in the Great Lakes region and Somalia, had given rise to illicit circulation of such weapons, which needed to be curtailed. Porous borders also enabled terrorists to enter and leave countries unchecked, as well as allowing the spread of human trafficking, drugs trafficking, firearms smuggling and money-laundering.

60. Her delegation reaffirmed its commitment to collaborating with Member States to address the key challenges of terrorism and to enhance the counter-terrorism framework. Given the complex nature of the terrorist threat, an integrated and coordinated response was essential. She joined other delegations in calling for an early conclusion of the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism and urged all parties to take the necessary decisions on outstanding issues that had for many years hampered substantive progress.

61. **Mr. Barriga** (Liechtenstein) said that his delegation had sponsored Security Council resolution 2178 (2014) because it believed that the measures adopted were necessary to address the phenomenon of foreign terrorist fighters and should be fully implemented by all concerned. However, it would have liked a stronger and more detailed emphasis on the need to respect fundamental human rights, and in particular due process rights. There was a real risk that the measures contained in the resolution could be interpreted too broadly or otherwise used as a pretext for repressive action.

62. The surge of cross-boundary terrorist activity should, at least in principle, increase the practical relevance of the various international counter-terrorism conventions, one of the main purposes of which was to promote and facilitate cooperation between multiple jurisdictions. Great progress had been made in

promoting the universality of those conventions, many of which required the State of nationality to establish jurisdiction over terrorist offences committed by their nationals abroad. A mapping exercise should now be carried out, ideally by independent experts under the auspices of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, to take stock of the actual impact of the conventions and the extent of their practical application. In the light of recent events, work should also be concluded on the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism, which would fill the gaps between the various sectoral conventions. The excellent compromise proposal put forward should be acted upon.

63. His delegation reiterated its proposal that the current agenda item should be considered on a biennial basis, alternating with the General Assembly's biennial review of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. A working group of the Sixth Committee and the Ad Hoc Committee established by General Assembly resolution 51/210 of 17 December 1996 could still meet annually to deal with the specific issues of the draft convention and the convening of a high-level conference on international terrorism.

64. **Mr. Pavlichenko** (Ukraine) said that almost every day there were new victims of terrorist attacks in different corners of the world. Terrorism could be eliminated only through decisive measures by the international community. His Government firmly condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, regardless of motivation or objectives. It supported the central role of the United Nations in counter-terrorism efforts and the promotion of international cooperation; in that regard, the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy remained vital for addressing evolving trends in relation to terrorism. Ukraine had become a party to all United Nations counter-terrorism conventions and protocols, and his delegation urged all Member States that had not done so to consider following suit. His Government was actively involved in counter-terrorism cooperation with many international and regional organizations, including the United Nations, the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, the Council of Europe, the Financial Action Task Force and the Georgia, Ukraine, Azerbaijan and Moldova (GUAM) Organization for Democracy and Economic Development. His Government had taken a leading role in efforts to prevent nuclear terrorism and promote non-proliferation by implementing its pledge to eliminate its national stocks of highly enriched uranium.

65. Ukraine was directly affected by the problem of terrorism. His Government had been conducting counter-terrorism operations in the east of Ukraine since March 2014. In view of the situation in the world in general and in Ukraine specifically, the international community must redouble its efforts to combat terrorism. One of the Committee's most important tasks was to complete its work on the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism; the proposals put forward in 2007 could form the basis of consensus. He called on all Member States to intensify their efforts to finalize the negotiation process during the current session.

66. His delegation was extremely concerned at the blatant violation of international counter-terrorism treaties by certain States. One of Ukraine's neighbours continued to breach its international obligations, in particular those under the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism and the International Convention for the Suppression of Terrorist Bombings. That State, acting through various State institutions and physical and legal entities under its direct control, was sponsoring terrorism in Ukraine. Its unlawful actions had led to the occupation of Crimea and the destabilization of the Donetsk and Lugansk regions of Ukraine, clearly showing that terrorism could be used for the purposes of hidden aggression against sovereign States. He called on the international community to continue to take decisive action to combat State or State-sponsored terrorism against the sovereignty and territorial integrity of independent States. In that connection, certain principles of the Declaration adopted by the International Conference on the Question of Terrorism (A/42/307) in 1987 could be taken as the basis for a new legally binding instrument in that field.

67. His delegation urged the Russian Federation immediately to take all feasible measures to prevent any acts that might constitute a crime within the meaning of relevant counter-terrorism conventions. It hoped that the information on violations of international counter-terrorism legislation which his Government regularly sent to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation would finally be given due consideration by the Russian Government, enabling the start of productive bilateral dialogue in

the near future. Without the bona fide fulfilment of international treaties and sincere cooperation by all States parties, any international efforts in the area of counter-terrorism, including those of the Committee, would be in vain.

68. **Mr. Kim Yong Song** (Democratic People's Republic of Korea) said that the terrorist acts committed around the world threatened States' sovereignty, social stability and international peace and security. Member States must therefore redouble their joint efforts to eradicate terrorism. Counter-terrorism activities should be conducted in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and international laws stipulating respect for sovereignty, the sovereign equality of States and non-interference in their internal affairs. In that regard, the armed invasion and interference in the internal affairs of States being committed under the pretext of the "war on terror" were bound to trigger acts of terrorism and retaliation. Furthermore, certain States, acting in their national interests, continued to categorize others as State sponsors of terrorism, imposing sanctions on them and even seeking to overthrow legitimate Governments by giving support to armed terrorist groups. Such State terrorism hindered international counter-terrorism efforts and had no justification whatsoever. The fight against terrorism should not be misused by certain States for political ends.

69. The draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism should therefore cover the eradication of State terrorism. It should also give importance to removing the root causes of terrorism, namely domination and interference, poverty and social inequality, and discrimination on the basis of race or religion. International efforts to eradicate terrorism would succeed fully only when that had been achieved. For that reason, his delegation supported the proposal to convene a United Nations high-level conference on terrorism, which could promote the adoption of measures to remove the root causes of terrorism.

70. Every State had a critical role to play in determining the success or failure of international efforts to combat terrorism. His country had long endured terrorist threats aimed at overthrowing its socialist system. Counter-terrorism had therefore become an important issue for his Government, as it sought to safeguard the sovereignty of the State and the lives and security of its citizens. Its efforts to strengthen international cooperation included the signing of key international counter-terrorism instruments and, recently, the ratification of the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism. His Government was also amending and supplementing its domestic legislation and would join in the international community's efforts to eliminate terrorism and build a peaceful and stable world.

71. **Mr. Holovka** (Serbia) said that his Government unequivocally condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. Serbia was a party to 14 international counter-terrorism instruments and was doing its utmost to implement all relevant General Assembly and Security Council resolutions, as well as the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. In considering how to suppress terrorism, it was important to take account of all elements that contributed to its emergence and spread, including misguided religious fanaticism; increased migration; social exclusion, especially of ethnic and religious minorities; uneven access to education; and the lack of employment and economic opportunities. Other issues requiring attention were the sources of terrorist financing, arms smuggling channels and clandestine recruitment centres and boot camps. The phenomenon of foreign terrorist fighters was of particular concern; the sudden rise in their numbers had coincided with the development of information technology and social networks.

72. Given the complexity of the terrorist threat, it could not be defeated by military solutions alone; a multidimensional approach was needed. His delegation welcomed the adoption of Security Council resolution 2178 (2014), since banning the recruitment and transport of potential foreign terrorist fighters by adopting appropriate national laws and regulations and engaging local communities with the aim of suppressing violent extremism, as well as penalizing groups and individuals engaged in recruitment, would be a significant first step towards the suppression of terrorism on the basis of the Charter of the United Nations.

73. Some foreign terrorist fighters in the Middle East arena were from Serbia. While their estimated number was relatively small, they posed manifold risks for society. In particular, hate speech and religious intolerance were on the rise. His Government was working to confront that challenge as part of its broader counter-terrorism efforts. A functional system

to combat money-laundering and terrorist financing had long been in place. Draft amendments to the Criminal Code were now awaiting adoption by the National Assembly to criminalize the incitement, organization, recruitment and equipping of individuals or groups to join foreign armed groups outside Serbia with the intention of participating in wars or armed conflicts.

74. His Government was willing to cooperate with all countries in the Western Balkans on the suppression of terrorist threats by coordinating the activities of competent national institutions. The entire region and each individual country should also become actively involved in international counter-terrorism efforts, which should be coordinated through the United Nations system. Serbia, which had been identified by the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001) (Counter-Terrorism Committee) as one of the countries in the region with the most significant counter-terrorism capacity, stood ready to share its expertise with neighbouring countries.

75. **Mr. Zagaynov** (Russian Federation) said that, despite the measures taken by the international community, terrorism was continuing to gain ground. Financed by the drug trade and seized oil deposits and supported by extremist ideologies, including those based on religion and ethnicity, it was permeating regional conflicts, in which foreign terrorist fighters also posed an increasing threat. In particular, terrorist militias such as ISIL, Al-Nusrah Front and others had infiltrated the Middle East and acquired additional capacity for their criminal activities in the context of weakening State institutions and with support from foreign sponsors. In that connection his delegation supported Security Council resolution 2170 (2014) strengthening sanctions against those terrorist groups operating in Syria and Iraq. As confirmed by the review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and Security Council resolution 2178 (2014), a comprehensive approach was needed to address the terrorist threat, taking into account its financial, administrative, social and ideological aspects, with the United Nations playing the central coordinating role, in compliance with international law.

76. His delegation had consistently called for greater international cooperation to prevent terrorism in all its forms. There was a need for all Member States to act in good faith to implement the Security Council resolutions that called on States to counter incitement and the illegal trade in oil, to impose sanctions on Al-Qaida and the Taliban, and to curb the flow of weapons from Libya. In that regard, his delegation supported the measures taken by the Counter-Terrorism Committee, the Security Council Committee pursuant to resolution 1267 (1999) and 1989 (2011) concerning Al-Qaida and associated individuals and entities, and the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004) to facilitate States' implementation of the relevant resolutions.

77. In order to stop the radicalization of public opinion and interreligious and intrareligious strife around the world, it was vital for States to maintain their efforts, under United Nations auspices, to reduce the appeal of terrorist activities, curb the spread of ideologies of terrorism and violent extremism and prevent the use of the media and the Internet for terrorist purposes. There should be wide-ranging dialogue with civil society structures able to play a positive role in education, research, the fostering of tolerance and understanding between ethnic and religious groups, the promotion of human rights and the rejection of ideologies of hatred and violence. In that connection, his Government was promoting partnerships between States and the private sector in countering terrorism, in line with the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. It aimed to work in close cooperation with the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force in carrying out the Global Strategy, while recognizing that primary responsibility for its implementation lay with Member States.

78. His Government attached particular importance to the counter-terrorism activities of regional organizations such as the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) and the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO), which, in addition to undertaking work on the development and harmonization of counter-terrorism legislation, conducted regular joint counter-terrorism exercises and training programmes for experts in various fields.

79. The United Nations should continue to focus on reinforcing the legal basis of counter-terrorism efforts and should endeavour to increase the number of parties to the relevant international instruments. Agreement on a comprehensive convention on international terrorism would represent a breakthrough in that regard. His delegation would continue to seek compromise

solutions to the unresolved issues surrounding the draft convention.

80. The allegations made by the representative of Ukraine against the Russian Federation were inadmissible and demonstrated a lack of understanding of — or a deliberate decision to ignore — the essence of terrorism. The so-called anti-terrorist activities still being carried out by Ukraine had nothing to do with truly countering terrorism but were punitive operations using a broad arsenal of military means against their own people, particularly those in Ukraine who had not accepted the coup d'état and had demanded their rights, including the right to speak in their native language. Instead of pursuing dialogue, the Ukrainian Government had ignored norms of international law and moral precepts by bombing cities and civil infrastructure, with hundreds of casualties. Despite the deal reached in Minsk with a view to resolving the conflict in eastern Ukraine, the Ukrainian Armed Forces were still shelling civilian areas in Donetsk, resulting in continued loss of life, the destruction of houses and schools, and the terrorization of the people of the Donbass.

81. **Mr. Troya** (Ecuador) said that his Government condemned terrorism in all forms and manifestations, including State terrorism, whether committed directly or indirectly. All counter-terrorism activities, however, must comply strictly with international law, especially international humanitarian law, refugee law and the right to privacy, and must respect State sovereignty. A clear distinction should also be drawn between terrorism and the legitimate struggle of people under colonial domination or foreign occupation. Terrorism was a crime that respected no borders, affected all regions of the world and should not be associated with any religion or culture. For that reason, it must be addressed through multilateral efforts taking account of the legitimate concerns of the entire international community. Unilateral measures were useless and served only to make the problem worse. In particular, the use of force was legal and legitimate only when it was expressly authorized by the Security Council, pursuant to Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations. Without such authorization, the use of force was an act of aggression lacking any legitimacy.

82. His Government supported the balanced implementation of the four pillars of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. In particular, it was vital to address the root causes of terrorism, including unresolved conflicts, political exclusion, socioeconomic marginalization, and foreign occupation or domination. His delegation attached particular importance to the counter-terrorism work of international organizations, since knowledge of the culture and specific characteristics of each country was of great value in combating terrorism and addressing its root causes.

83. Ecuador rejected the unilateral preparation of lists of States that allegedly supported international terrorism; such lists clearly violated international law. In particular, the Heads of State and Government of the Latin American and Caribbean States, in the Special Declaration on terrorism adopted at the Second Summit of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States on 29 January 2014, had rejected the inclusion of Cuba on such lists, and had also condemned the fact that the person responsible for the 1976 attack against an aircraft of Cubana de Aviación, which had killed 73 innocent civilians, had not been tried for terrorism.

84. His delegation welcomed the report of the Secretary-General on protecting human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism (A/68/298), since not even the fight against terrorism could justify the violation of human rights. His Government also supported efforts to prevent and suppress the financing of terrorism, as well as the strengthening of international cooperation in that area, and condemned the provision of financing, weapons and logistical support to groups of non-State combatants, which was in violation of international law. The phenomenon of foreign fighters must be addressed, without exceptions and without making artificial distinctions.

85. His delegation supported efforts to conclude the negotiation of a draft convention on international terrorism as soon as possible, taking into account all points of view and incorporating the legitimate concerns of all Member States. It was in favour of an open consultation process to achieve progress in that regard. It also supported the proposal to convene a high-level conference in order to end the current impasse in negotiations on the draft convention and move forward on crucial aspects such as the definition of terrorism.

86. **Mr. Lee Moon Hee** (Republic of Korea), recalling that terrorism had no nationality and respected no borders, said that the recent savagery of

terrorist groups and foreign terrorist fighters posed new threats extending well beyond the region in conflict. The Republic of Korea condemned terrorism in all its forms; no cause or grievance could justify such acts of violence. His delegation commended the efforts of the Secretary-General and relevant United Nations organs in leading international cooperation in countering terrorism and welcomed the recent adoption of Security Council resolution 2178 (2014) on foreign terrorist fighters. The obligations under that resolution must be effectively implemented.

87. His Government had been making active efforts to contribute to global counter-terrorism efforts. In hosting the Seoul Conference on Cyberspace in 2013, it had sought to raise awareness of the importance of promoting international cooperation to reduce emerging threats arising from the malicious use of information and communications technologies. Terrorist groups were increasingly using such technologies to spread their ideologies, expand their networks and develop more sophisticated financing methods.

88. Terrorism bred on the ills of society, including discrimination, exclusion and inequality. A sustained and comprehensive approach was therefore needed to deal with the evolving scope and nature of terrorist threats and to reintegrate extremists into society. In that regard, his delegation supported efforts to implement the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, which aimed to address all key components of terrorism.

89. The persistence and severity of terrorist attacks against human life and dignity served as a reminder that countering terrorism was an essential part of promoting human rights and the rule of law. That was why developing a legal framework that reflected the shared values of the international community was so important. Although negotiations on the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism were still at an impasse, with substantial challenges remaining, current threats called for flexibility to bring the negotiations to a close. His delegation was committed to reaching an agreement on the draft convention and welcomed the establishment of the Working Group on measures to eliminate international terrorism with a view to finalizing that process.

90. **Ms. Hamilton** (United States of America) said that all terrorist acts, by whomever committed, were criminal, inhumane and unjustifiable, regardless of motivation. Her delegation reiterated its condemnation of terrorism in all forms and manifestations and its commitment to the fight to end it. United international efforts were needed to prevent such heinous acts and, in that regard, the United Nations had a critical role to play in mobilizing the international community, building capacity and facilitating technical assistance to Member States in implementation of its Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

91. A number of recent resolutions adopted by the Security Council, including resolution 2178 (2014) concerning the foreign terrorist fighter threat, were good examples of the meaningful role that the United Nations could play in addressing new counter-terrorism challenges. Given that a growing number of States were considering the adoption, or had recently adopted, new laws to criminalize activities relating to foreign terrorist fighters , it would be fruitful for delegations to exchange views on the implementation of Security Council resolution 2178 (2014), including the provision of technical assistance where requested. As highlighted in that resolution, it was also essential to counter violent extremism, prevent radicalization and recruitment, and develop rehabilitation and reintegration strategies for returning foreign terrorist fighters. For those needs, the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED), based on the threat analysis carried out by the Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team established pursuant to Security Council resolution 1526 (2004), should facilitate the delivery of technical assistance, while the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre, together with the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force, should conduct the relevant capacity-building programmes.

92. Her delegation firmly supported the efforts of the United Nations, the Global Counterterrorism Forum and other multilateral bodies, civil society and non-governmental organizations aimed at developing practical tools to further the implementation of the United Nations counter-terrorism framework. Coordination among the various partners should, however, be improved. In that regard, her delegation had welcomed the fourth review of the Global Strategy, in particular its emphasis on the need for greater implementation by States and for greater cooperation, coordination and coherence among United Nations entities. It strongly supported the Organization's efforts

to facilitate the promotion and protection of human rights and the rule of law in the context of counter-terrorism efforts, and recognized the role that victims could play in countering violent extremism. It also stressed the need to improve border management and to use financial measures to counter terrorism.

93. Her Government had made voluntary contributions to the Task Force for the development of assistance and training initiatives and had provided funding support for the training and capacity-building work of the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre. She urged other Member States to join it in building that Centre's capacity to provide assistance in the areas addressed by the Global Strategy and relevant Security Council resolutions.

94. While the international community had made significant progress in developing a robust legal counter-terrorism regime, much remained to be done. The 18 international counter-terrorism instruments established would be effective only if they were widely ratified and implemented. Her Government was advancing in its own efforts to ratify the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism, the 2005 Amendment to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material and the 2005 Protocols to the Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Maritime Navigation. She urged other States that had not yet done so to follow suit. With negotiations on the current proposals concerning the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism still at an impasse, her delegation remained willing to work with other States to build on and enhance the international counter-terrorism framework and would listen carefully to the statements of other delegations as the Committee continued to deliberate on those challenging issues.

95. **Mr. Faizee** (Afghanistan), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that Afghanistan, as a Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) observer State, was committed to working with its partners in the fight against terrorism and narcotics. The Security Council and General Assembly resolutions on combating those scourges were based on a broad understanding of the common threat posed by narcotics and terrorism to all Member States and the need for cooperation by the entire international community. Although Afghanistan continued to suffer terrorist attacks, terrorism was an international issue. In particular, the elimination of terrorist sanctuaries and support centres located outside Afghanistan was crucial in order to bring stability to the Central Asia region. In that regard, the statement made by the representative of the Russian Federation on behalf of SCO, indicating that terrorist and narcotic threats emanating from Afghanistan were the major destabilizing factors in the region, did not reflect regional realities and ran counter to the spirit of cooperation to which the international community was committed. While his Government's top priorities were to combat and eradicate terrorism and drug trafficking, it could not achieve those goals without cooperation from neighbouring countries. The drug problem must be seen in terms of trafficking as well as production; a comprehensive approach involving regional cooperation was therefore essential.

96. **Mr. Heumann** (Israel), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that his delegation could not remain silent in the face of the baseless accusations that the representative of Lebanon had levelled at Israel, the only democracy in the Middle East. He suggested that the Lebanese Government should instead turn its attention to Hizbullah, which had taken root in Lebanon and amassed an arsenal of weapons rivalling that of many States. It was time for the Government of Lebanon to take responsibility for what was happening on its own soil. The repeated acts of aggression launched by Hizbullah against Israel from Lebanese territory violated Security Council resolution 1701 (2006) and threatened to destabilize an already shaky region. The Israeli Government held the Government of Lebanon responsible for all attacks on Israel emanating from Lebanese territory, including the many missiles fired on the Israeli civilian population.

97. **Mr. Pavlichenko** (Ukraine), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said it was unfortunate that the Russian Federation continued to deny its role in the situation in the east of Ukraine. It was Russian citizens with close links to the Russian secret service who had initially headed the violent extremist organizations operating in the Lugansk and Donetsk regions of Ukraine. It was the Russian Federation that continued to supply terrorist organizations in Ukraine with the newest weaponry and to train fighters who were sent to Ukraine to fight against Ukrainian troops. It was pro-Russian militants who committed serious violations of international law by killing, humiliating and torturing civilians in the east of Ukraine, as confirmed by international human rights organizations. Lastly, it was the Russian Federation that had occupied Crimea, an integral part of Ukraine; that fact had never been accepted by the United Nations.

The meeting rose at 5.50 p.m.